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STATINTL
Budget and the White House staff are reluctant to recreate the Medal of Freedom at the present time. The primary snag seems to lie in the fact that Congress has recently failed to approve the award to Americans of numerous foreign decorations, and the White House staff is reluctant to recreate a medal which is primarily an award to foreigners until this particular situation has been cleared up. There is some consideration presently being given to the recreation of the Medal for Merit Board so that the Medal for Merit may be awarded to those who have contributed outstanding services in the present crisis.
Subsequently, called to state that he now learns that the Army and Navy are still awarding the Medal for Freedom and therefore he will have to run down the whole problem again.

STATINTL